

CHARD UNION

Rural Sanitary Authority.



# ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1894.



Chard :

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1895.



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
FOR THE  
RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT  
OF  
THE + CHARD + UNION.

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my 16th Annual Report of the Sanitary Condition and Vital Statistics of your District, for the year ending December 31st, 1894.

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AREA: 55,000 ACRES.      POPULATION: 21,000.

MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES.

Males.....180.      Females.....146.      Total 326.

*at subjoined ages.*

Under one year, 56; one year and under 5 years, 29; 5 years and under 15 years, 11; 15 years and under 25 years, 14; 25 years and under 65 years, 71; 65 years and upwards, 145—total 326.

# TABULAR STATEMENT OF DEATHS,

*As Required by the Local Government Board.*

Ague	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Continued	} Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	0
Relapsing							
Puerperal							
Cholera							0
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Rheumatic Fever							0
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Bronchitis	} ...	.	...	...	...	...	58
Pneumonia							
Pleurisy							
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Injuries	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
All other diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	203
Total							326

# TABULAR STATEMENT OF BIRTHS

## AND DEATHS, &c.,

*Required by the County Council.*

Registered Births, Males	...	...	...	...	...	281
„ „ Females	...	...	...	...	...	265
Total	...	...	...	...	...	546
Registered Deaths, Males	...	...	...	...	...	180
„ „ Females	...	...	...	...	...	146
Total	...	...	...	...	...	326

# TABULAR STATEMENT OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS, &c.,

*Required by the County Council.*

Birth rate per thousand living.	Death rate per thousand living.	Zymotic rate per thousand living.	Infant Mortality per thousand Births.
26·0	15·0	0·30	102·5
As against the following for the previous year			
30·0	13·6	0·30	82·5

## METEOROLOGY.

The rainfall for the year was 44 inches, the rainfall for the last ten years being as follows :—

1885	...	...	37 inches	1890	...	...	30 inches
1886	...	...	35 "	1891	...	...	39 "
1887	...	...	24 "	1892	...	...	26 "
1888	...	...	34 "	1893	...	...	26 "
1889	...	...	25 "	1894	...	...	44 "

so that the rainfall for the year was <sup>12</sup>eight inches above the average for the years mentioned.

## PREVALENCE OF DISEASE.

During the year cases of Measles were prevalent throughout the district. In order to prevent the disease from spreading, several schools were recommended to be closed for a time.

I cannot refrain from again asserting that Measles and Whooping Cough should be included in the list of diseases coming under the "Infectious Diseases Notification Act."

An epidemic of "Scarlet Fever" occurred in the parish of Combe St. Nicholas, entirely due to some children being allowed to mingle freely with other children whilst suffering from a mild form of this disease, and whose parents either did not, or would not, believe there was anything the matter with them. No medical attendant was consulted, consequently, no *notification certificate* was received, and the disease was practically spread broadcast before any steps could be taken to check its progress. In the adjoining parish, the parents of some children who had been notified to be suffering from "Scarlet Fever," and who received full instructions as to the infectious nature of their children's illness, and who totally disregarded these instructions. Summary proceedings were taken against them, and the magistrates imposed the usual fine—no person by law being allowed to be exposed on the Public Highway whilst suffering from an infectious disease. This law should be strictly enforced.

One case of "Small-pox" was notified, it occurred in the town of Crewkerne. *Immediately* on receipt of the certificate, I telegraphed for a special meeting of the Sanitary Committee to be called. A meeting was held the same afternoon. Certain steps were then recommended to be taken without delay, in order to prevent the disease from spreading. These steps, I am pleased to be able to state, the Committee ordered to be strictly enforced, and it should be a source of satisfaction to the Committee and the inhabitants generally, to know that these steps proved sufficient, no other case of "Small-pox" being reported. The origin of this case could never be satisfactorily traced.

The Crewkerne Urban Sanitary Committee ought to consider themselves fortunate in having the town handed over to them with a *clean bill of health*, no certificate under the "Notification Act" being received during the month of December. The inhabitants are supplied with an unlimited supply of pure water, and the town is well drained. No one can compare the state of affairs now with what it was in 1878, but must confess that the improvements in every way are great. The town was then hardly ever free from cases of "Typhoid Fever." Since the inhabitants have been supplied with pure water, no town of its size has been more free from this disease.

In the parish of Yarcombe, a few cases of Diphtheria were reported, fortunately, neither of the cases terminated fatally. The origin of these cases could not be traced to contaminated water; samples were sent to the County Analyst, who reported them to be wholesome. The drains surrounding the premises were not satisfactorily constructed; they have since been re-constructed. I believe *Diphtheria* more frequently arises from the inhalation of "*Sewer Gas*" than from all other sources put together.

## DISINFECTION.

*House Disinfection.*—If carried out thoroughly, all the clothing should be passed through a “Disinfector,” whilst the walls, ceiling, and such articles as cannot be moved, should be fumigated—or, what is still better, washed with “Corrosive Sublimate”; this can, with great facility, be done by a system of spraying, by means of a machine made for that purpose. No Rural or Urban Sanitary Authority should be without a “Disinfecting Machine.” Reck’s Patent answers well, and the cost, I believe, is only about seventy pounds.

## ISOLATION.

In order to reap the fullest benefit to be derived from “The Infectious Diseases Notification Act,” 1889, a special hospital should be provided for the immediate reception of the case notified.

## DISPOSAL OF REFUSE, AND OF THE DEAD BODIES OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

Where arrangements are not made for refuse of all kinds to be regularly removed, all animal and vegetable refuse should be buried or burnt—the effluvia arising from decaying vegetable and animal refuse being dangerous to health. The dead bodies of dogs and cats should be buried, and a heavy fine should be enforced for disposing of these bodies in ponds, canals, and other vacant places.

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

The various Factories and Workshops coming under this Act have been visited by the Inspectors, and, where found necessary, a special report made.

The Dairy Houses, Milk Shops, Slaughter Houses, and Bake-houses, have been regularly inspected, and orders given for whitewashing, &c., where found necessary.

## HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT.

The Dwelling-houses throughout the district, speaking generally, are in a satisfactory condition. There are, of course some old cottages, but because a cottage is old, it must not necessarily follow that it is, from a sanitary point of view injurious to health.



## EXPOSURE OF MEAT, FISH, &c., FOR SALE, UNFIT FOR HUMAN FOOD.

No meat was found during the year exposed for sale unfit for food; and only one consignment of fish, which was ordered to be immediately destroyed. Perhaps the most striking feature of continental sanitation, is the great attention paid to the inspection of meat. For all towns with a population, say of 25,000, private slaughter-houses should be abolished, and a public "Abattoir" erected.

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During the year a considerable number of samples of water, taken from wells, have been tested. Where found necessary, the wells were ordered to be cleaned out, and the surrounding soil made good, in order to prevent, if possible, future contamination.

The Inspectors of Nuisances being constantly through their respective districts, notice is at once given to have any nuisance abated without delay.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

EDWARD STEPHENS,

Medical Officer of Health.

*Ilminster, January 28th, 1895.*





LIST OF NUISANCES REPORTED AND ABATED  
DURING THE YEAR 1894.

PARISH.	Defective Drains.	Choked Closets.	Fish and meat exposed.	Insufficient Privy Accommodation.	Privy Cess-pit overflowing.	Accumulation of Refuse.	Lime Washing.	Overcrowding.	Cleaning Wells.	Pig Styes kept in filthy condition.	Disputatious Houses.	TOTAL.
<b>CHARD DISTRICT.</b>												
<i>Inspector, Mr. R. Smith,</i>												
Chard ... ..	4	2		1	7	4	13		2	6	2	41
Combe St. Nicholas ...	2	8		4	1	14	12			2		43
Chaffcombe ... ..				2								2
Buckland St. Mary ...	3					2	7		2			14
Whitestaunton ... ..	3						1					4
Wambrook ... ..							2					2
Yarcombe ... ..	7					1	4		1			13
	19	10		7	8	21	39		5	8	2	119
<b>Crewkerne District</b>												
<i>Inspector, Mr. Holweil.</i>												
Crewkerne ... ..	22	23	1	9		30	12		4	8	4	113
Merriott ... ..	6	13		2		15	5	1	1	2	1	46
Wayford ... ..	1	1		1								3
Winsham ... ..	3	3		3		2	3				2	16
Dinnington ... ..	1	4		2			1					8
Cudworth ... ..												
Chillington ... ..	1						3		1		1	6
Lopen ... ..						1	2			1	2	6
Hinton St. George ...	1	2		1		2	2		2			10
Cricket St. Thomas ...												
	35	46	1	18		50	28	1	8	11	10	208
<b>Ilminster District.</b>												
<i>Inspector, Mr. Fenner.</i>												
Cricket Malherbie ...											1	1
Donyatt ... ..							1					1
Broadway ... ..					1		1					2
Ilminster ... ..	3			1	3	3	6		1			17
Ilton ... ..							1					1
Kingstone ... ..							1			1		3
Stocklinch ... ..				1			2					3
Shepton Beauchamp ...	1						1					2
Seavington St. Michael...												
Seavington St. Mary ...												
Dowlish Wake ... ..												
Dowlish West ... ..												
Knowle St. Giles ... ..												
Whitelackington ... ..												
	4			2	4	3	13		1	1	2	30

PARISH.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.										
			Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.
							Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.		
Ashill ... ..	552	Under 5 5 upwards.											
Broadway ... ..	332	Under 5 5 upwards.											3
Buckland St. Mary ...	586	Under 5 5 upwards.		3									
Chard Parish ... ..	1740	Under 5 5 upwards.		7 3									
Crewkerne ... ..	4992	Under 5 5 upwards.	1	11 5				1			1		2
Chillington ... ..	195	Under 5 5 upwards.											
Cudworth ... ..	108	Under 5 5 upwards		1									
Chaffcombe ... ..	192	Under 5 5 upwards											
Combe St. Nicholas ...	1069	Under 5 5 upwards		37 17									2
Cricket Malherbie ...	46	Under 5 5 upwards											
Cricket St. Thomas ...	90	Under 5 5 upwards											
Donyatt ... ..	355	Under 5 5 upwards											3
Dowlish Wake ... ..	273	Under 5 5 upwards											
Dowlish West ... ..	59	Under 5 5 upwards											
Dinnington ... ..	137	Under 5 5 upwards		3 1									
Hinton St. George ...	649	Under 5 5 upwards											
Ilminster ... ..	3135	Under 5 5 upwards				1		1					3
Ilton ... ..	332	Under 5 5 upwards		1									
Kingstone ... ..	199	Under 5 5 upwards											
Knowle St. Giles ...	92	Under 5 5 upwards											
Lopen ... ..	292	Under 5 5 upwards											
Merriott ... ..	1349	Under 5 5 upwards											
Seavington St. Mary ...	269	Under 5 5 upwards											
Seavington St. Michael ...	176	Under 5 5 upwards											
Shepton Beauchamp ...	670	Under 5 5 upwards		2 1									2
Stocklinch ... ..	183	Under 5 5 upwards											1
Wayford ... ..	367	Under 5 5 upwards											
Wambrook ... ..	231	Under 5 5 upwards											
Whitelackington ...	183	Under 5 5 upwards											
Whitestaunton ... ..	205	Under 5 5 upwards			1								
Winsham ... ..	749	Under 5 5 upwards											
Yarcombe ... ..	647	Under 5 5 upwards		6 3	3 2								
TOTALS ... ..			1	121	6	1		2			1		16



PARISH.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES. AT SUBJOINED AGES.								MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES.							
	At all ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.		Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	FEVERS.			
													Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.
Ashill ... ..	8	1				.	7	Under 5 5 upwards.								
Broadway ... ..	8	1	1			2	4	Under 5 5 upwards.								
Buckland St. Mary ...	9	1				3	5	Under 5 5 upwards.		<del>9</del>						
Chard Parish ... ..	35	4	3	0	4	8	16	Under 5 5 upwards.		<del>9</del> <del>3</del>						
Crewkerne ... ..	77	20	5	3	6	18	25	Under 5 5 upwards.	<del>1</del>	<del>11</del> <del>5</del>				1		
Chillington ... ..	0							Under 5 5 upwards.								
Cudworth ... ..	0	0						Under 5 5 upwards.		<del>1</del>						
Chaffcombe ... ..	0	0						Under 5 5 upwards.								
Combe St. Nicholas ...	19	5		1	1	2	10	Under 5 5 upwards.		<del>37</del> <del>17</del>						
Cricket Malherbie ...	0							Under 5 5 upwards.								
Cricket St. Thomas ...	1					1		Under 5 5 upwards.								
Donyatt ... ..	6		1		1	2	2	Under 5 5 upwards.								
Dowlish Wake ... ..	9		1			3	5	Under 5 5 upwards.								
Dowlish West ... ..	0							Under 5 5 upwards.								
Dinnington ... ..	3	2					1	Under 5 5 upwards.		<del>4</del> <del>1</del>						
Hinton St. George ...	8			1		1	6	Under 5 5 upwards.								
Ilminster ... ..	60	9	8	3	1	15	24	Under 5 5 upwards.				1		<del>1</del>		
Ilton ... ..	6			1		1	4	Under 5 5 upwards.		<del>1</del>						
Kingstone ... ..	1						1	Under 5 5 upwards.								
Knowle St. Giles ...	0							Under 5 5 upwards.								
Lopen ... ..	6	3	1				2	Under 5 5 upwards.								
Merriott ... ..	19	2	3	1		4	9	Under 5 5 upwards.								
Seavington St. Mary ...	2						2	Under 5 5 upwards.								
Seavington St. Michael ...	3				1		2	Under 5 5 upwards.								
Shepton Beauchamp ...	10	2	2			3	3	Under 5 5 upwards.		<del>2</del> <del>1</del>						







